CLAIMS

We claim:

1.   An article of manufacture for use in a data processing system for installing an
2. application program for execution on the data processing system, said article of manufacture
3. comprising a computer-readable storage medium having a computer program embodied in said
4. medium which causes the data processing system to execute the method steps comprising:

5.   defining a configuration of the application program corresponding to a particular
6. user of the application program;

7.   encrypting and storing the configuration in a manifest file;

8.   determining that the stored configuration corresponds to the user;

9.   authenticating the user in response to the user requesting the application
10. program;

11.   decrypting the manifest file in response to the user authentication; and

12.   building the application program pursuant to the configuration decrypted from
13. the manifest file.

2. The article of manufacture of claim 1 wherein the data processing system is a local data processing system, and wherein the computer program embodied in said medium causes the data processing system to execute the additional method steps comprising:

storing the configuration on a remote server executing on a remote data processing system;

initiating a session between the local data processing system and the remote data processing system in response to the user requesting the local application program;

responsive to the user authentication, downloading data from the remote data processing system to the local data processing system according to the stored configuration; and

downloading the manifest file from the remote data processing system to the local data processing system.

3. The article of manufacture of claim 2 wherein the computer program embodied in said medium causes the data processing system to execute the additional method steps comprising:

authenticating the user in a second authentication responsive to the user requesting a build of the application program;

decrypting the manifest file responsive to the second authentication; and

building the application program pursuant to the configuration decrypted from the manifest file responsive to the second authentication.

4.   The article of manufacture of claim 1 wherein the computer program embodied in said medium causes the data processing system to execute the additional method step comprising:
recording a description of which items are being used by the user.

5.   The article of manufacture of claim 4 wherein the recorded description is used for administering licensing of the items.

6.   The article of manufacture of claim 2 wherein the remote server is a web server.

7.   The article of manufacture of claim 1 wherein the configuration comprises data describing the user, the user's application program configuration, and resources for which the user is authorized.

8.   A method of installing an application program for execution on a data processing
system, said method comprising the steps of:

defining a configuration of the application program corresponding to a particular
user of the application program;

encrypting and storing the configuration in a manifest file;

determining that the stored configuration corresponds to the user;

authenticating the user in response to the user requesting the application
program;

decrypting the manifest file in response to the user authentication; and

building the application program pursuant to the configuration decrypted from
the manifest file.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of:

storing the configuration on a remote server executing on a remote data processing system;

initiating a session between the local data processing system and the remote data processing system in response to the user requesting the local application program;

responsive to the user authentication, downloading data from the remote data processing system to the local data processing system according to the stored configuration; and

downloading the manifest file from the remote data processing system to the local data processing system.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising the steps of:

authenticating the user in a second authentication responsive to the user requesting a build of the application program;

decrypting the manifest file responsive to the second authentication; and

building the application program pursuant to the configuration decrypted from the manifest file responsive to the second authentication.

11. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of:

recording a description of which items are being used by the user.

1   12.   The method of claim 11 wherein the recorded description is used for administering

2   licensing of the items.

1   13.   The method of claim 9 wherein the remote server is a web server.

1   14.   The method of claim 8 wherein the configuration comprises data describing the user,

2   the user's application program configuration, and resources for which the user is authorized.

1   15.   A computer system for installing an application program for execution on a data

2   processing system, said computer system comprising:

3   a configuration of the application program corresponding to a particular user of

4   the application program;

5   a manifest file comprising an encrypted configuration;

6   a determination that the stored configuration corresponds to the user;

7   an authentication of the user in response to the user requesting the application

8   program;

9   a decryptor for decrypting the manifest file in response to the user

10   authentication; and

11   an application program builder for building the application program pursuant to

12   the configuration decrypted from the manifest file.

16.   The computer system of claim 15 wherein the data processing system is a local data
processing system, said computer system further comprising:

a remote server executing on a remote data processing system in which the
configuration is stored;

a session between the local data processing system and the remote data
processing system in response to the user requesting the local application program;

a downloader, responsive to the user authentication, for downloading data from
the remote data processing system to the local data processing system according to the
stored configuration; and

a downloaded manifest file which is downloaded from the remote data
processing system to the local data processing system.

17.   The computer system of claim 16 further comprising:

a second authentication of the user responsive to the user requesting a build of
the application program;

a second decryptor, responsive to the second authentication, for decrypting the
manifest file; and

an application program builder, responsive to the second authentication, for
building the application program pursuant to the configuration decrypted from the
manifest file.

1   18.   The computer system of claim 15 further comprising a recording of a description of

2   which items are being used by the user.

1   19.   The computer system of claim 18 wherein the recorded description is used for

2   administering licensing of the items.

1   20.   The computer system of claim 16 wherein the remote server is a web server.

1   21.   The computer system of claim 15 wherein the configuration comprises data describing

2   the user, the user's application program configuration, and resources for which the user is

3   authorized.